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Moroccan envoy delivers message

AMMAN (JNA). — The Director of the Moroccan Royal Court Ahmad Ibn Souda arrived here from Damascus Thursday evening and handed a written message to His Majesty King Hussein from Morocco's King Hassan II. "Jordan and Morocco are closely linked," Mr. Souda told JNA on arrival at the airport. "Our Arab and African world is now passing through a fateful stage which calls for consultations and the exchange of viewpoints," he added. The Moroccan special envoy has already visited Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Syria with similar messages. There has been no official word on their contents but observers believe they explain Morocco's decision to send troops to Zaire to help combat insurgency.

Peres suggests early warning system along Jordan River

TEL AVIV, April 14 (R). — Defence Minister Shimon Peres has called for the setting up of a military warning system along the Jordan River. "Instead of drawing maps of agreed borders I believe it's more conceivable to build a joint warning system along the Jordan," he added. Under the 1975 interim agreement between Israel and Egypt the two countries, with the United States, set up early warning radar stations in the Sinai desert to signal "hostile activities in the area." He also said he could foresee the introduction of missiles containing non-conventional warheads in the Middle East, but did not go into details.

Peres tipped to become acting prime minister

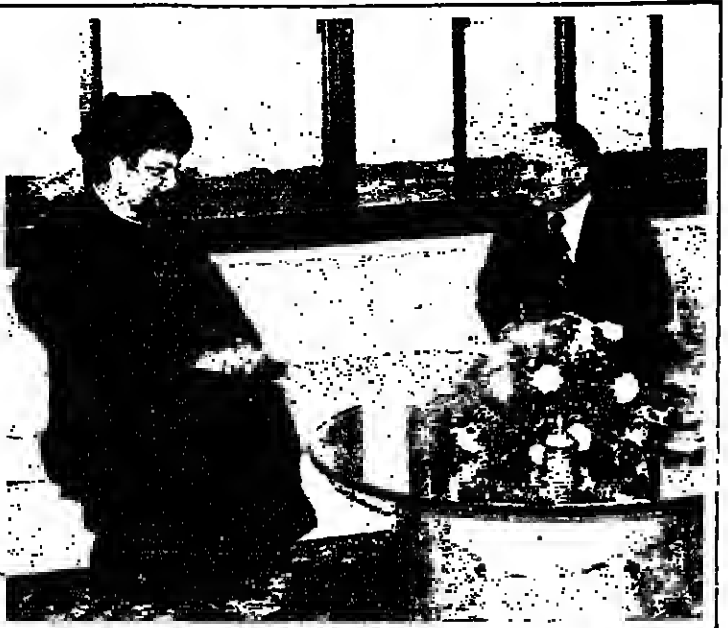
TEL AVIV, April 14 (R). — Defence Minister Shimon Peres is expected to become acting prime minister after replacing Mr. Yitzhak Rabin whose political career was wrecked by a bribery scandal, government officials said here today. Mr. Rabin's wife was charged in a Tel Aviv district court earlier today with illegal possession of foreign currency stemming from two accounts in Washington banks which date from Mr. Rabin's five years as ambassador to the United States. Mr. Peres has already replaced Mr. Rabin as leader of the Labour Party. The Finance Ministry fined Mr. Rabin 15,000 Israeli pounds (£1,000) for violating Israel's foreign currency laws and Mrs. Rabin, who managed the accounts, will be brought to trial on the charges laid today.

Egyptian ambassador U.S. says: No place for "hawks" in M.E.

WASHINGTON, April 14 (R). — Mr. Ghorbal, Egypt's Ambassador to the United States, said there was no place for "hawks" in the Middle East. "The Middle East is in the interests of peace and I don't want to see it become a theatre for the display of force," he said. "The East cannot afford to have today, and I don't want to see it have tomorrow, a step-by-step approach because of the huge differences between Israel and Arab countries. However, Mr. Ghorbal also extended an olive branch to Mr. Peres, saying: "If Mr. Shimon Peres, as he assumes leadership (of Israel), if he does, wants to have real peace, he has no difficulties finding it with us." The ambassador praised American initiatives, saying: "Since the Carter administration assumed responsibility in this country, we have again picked up the momentum towards peace in the Middle East. We are back on track after a pause of a year and a half." He repeated various demands of the Arab states, including participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Geneva peace talks, and withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab lands. "They (Israel) cannot have peace and territory at the same time. They can have either peace or territory," he said.

Moroccan troops braced in defensive positions in Zaire

WASHINGTON, April 14 (AFP). — 1,000 Moroccan troops today braced in defensive positions around the vulnerable Zairese copper town of Kolwezi as the deployment of troops drew to a close. The Moroccan capital of Rabat, meanwhile, informed so-called international air Zaire ended overnight Wednesday, when the 1,500 man Moroccan contingent flew out of the We-Sahara town of El Saloum. Cairo, newspapers revealed that Egypt had not yet decided whether to send troops to fight alongside the Zairese against the Zairese forces. In Kinshasa, Zairese President Mobutu Sese Seko Kibangu Ngbendu told Zairese planes had bombed Zambia and said the bombing was carried out by "Russians". General Mobutu also denied Angolan allegations that Zairese guns shelled an Angolan merchant ship inside Angolan waters on Sunday wounding several crew members. Angola today repeated its denial that it had any role in the invasion of southern Zaire and warned countries supporting the Zairese government that they were risking the internationalisation of the conflict. On the military front, the fighting appeared to be at a standstill. AFP correspondent Pierre Zanin reported from Kolwezi that the only sign of military movement was rocket-laden Mi-24 helicopters preparing to take off from the airstrip. It was believed the invaders, whose exact identity has not been established, were in position slightly more than 80 kms. to the west of Kolwezi. Military analysts were wondering what the invaders planned to do now, and there was speculation that they may be waiting for the Zairese and their allies to take up position around Kolwezi before moving off the strike elsewhere. In Brussels, the Congolese National Liberation Front (FNL) said today that its forces clashed with Zairese troops last night in the village of Lupasa, 25 kms. west of Kolwezi. An FNL spokesman told the Belgian news agency Belga, that the Zairese army suffered heavy losses. He said that one of the men captured by FNL forces had said that 50 French pilots were directly involved in the fighting.



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Imam Moussa Sadr at Al Hashimiyyah Palace Thursday. (JNA photo).

Imam Sadr meets with King Hussein

AMMAN (Agencies). — Imam Moussa Sadr, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslims, held talks with His Majesty King Hussein Thursday on the general situation in his country, and in south Lebanon in particular. Imam Sadr, here on a two-day visit, explained the effects of a continuation of the crisis in the sensitive south on efforts to restore peace in his country and the Middle East in general. His Majesty stressed the need for a concerted Arab effort to improve the present situation in south Lebanon, and stated his confidence in the ability of the Lebanese people to rebuild their country. Imam Sadr earlier laid a wreath at the tomb of the late Queen Ailya.

Sadat asks Arafat to mediate with Soviet Union

BEIRUT, April 14 (AFP). — President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has asked Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to try to improve relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, reliable sources said here today. They added that Mr. Arafat raised the question during his visit to Moscow last week and Soviet leaders reacted positively to the suggestion. The PLO leader, who has been in Cairo since Tuesday, was briefing President Sadat on the results of his Moscow talks including Soviet-Egyptian relations, according to the sources.

Mubarak visits Damascus, due in Amman today

DAMASCUS, April 14 (R). — Egyptian Vice President Hosni Mubarak arrived here today at the start of a tour of 12 Arab countries to brief them on President Anwar Sadat's recent talks in the United States, West Germany and France. Mr. Mubarak, who was welcomed by Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rahman Khleifawi, told reporters he would deliver a message from President Sadat to Syrian President Hafez Assad. The visit was part of continuous consultations between the two presidents, he said. Mr. Mubarak leaves for Amman tomorrow to give His Majesty King Hussein a similar briefing.

Demonstrations banned for 2 days in Spain

MADRID, April 14 (R). — The Spanish government banned demonstrations and political rallies today to forestall trouble on the 46th anniversary of the republic which Gen. Franco defeated in the 1936-39 civil war. Political parties were told of the two-day ban by the Interior Ministry. The measure also appears aimed at averting possible clashes between leftists and rightists following legalisation of the Communist Party, a move which provoked the navy minister's resignation earlier this week. But Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez seems to have weathered the crisis since top army officers have grudgingly accepted his decision to give the communists political legality. Meanwhile, the Communist Party Central Committee met today to draw up its list of candidates for the coming general elections and to approve its electoral platform. Secretary General Santiago Carrillo told committee members that the party had made "great sacrifices in the struggle for a democratic Spain and made them without any spirit of revenge." The communists considered the Spanish civil war "already as a fact of history, and they feel no hatred for those who fought against them," Mr. Carrillo said. He criticised the "minority of voices" which claimed the legalisation of the Communist Party was "a catastrophe." Mr. Carrillo thanked the for-

Amman, Peking establish diplomatic relations

AMMAN (Agencies). — Jordan announced Thursday it was breaking off diplomatic relations with Taiwan and opening an embassy in Peking. A joint communique to this effect was issued here and in Peking. The same day, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim called in the Nationalist Chinese ambassador, Gen. I Fan Chen, to inform him of Jordan's decision, it was announced here. The Jordanian government "recognises the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government representing the entire Chinese people, and Taiwan province as an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China," the communique said. "The two governments have agreed to develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity," the communique said. It was signed in Washington on April 7 by Mr. Huang Chen and Mr. Abdullah Salah, respective representatives of the Chinese and Jordanian governments. Part of the text published here said that China "strongly supported" Jordan in its just struggle to safeguard its national independence and to develop its national economy. It was not immediately clear what would happen to Jordan's trade with Taiwan, which totalled nearly \$11 million in 1975, the last year for which figures are available. Jordanian phosphate sales to Taiwan accounted for \$8.5 million of this, while the remainder comprised imports by Jordan. In the same year its imports from the People's Republic totalled more than \$8 million, while China bought virtually nothing from Jordan. Mr. Ibrahim said that the Jordanian government was severing diplomatic ties with Taiwan and recalling the staff of its diplomatic mission there. JNA reported. Taiwan suspended diplomatic relations with Jordan following Thursday's announcement.

A Foreign Ministry statement quoted by the Central News Agency in Taipei said: "The government of the Republic of China has decided to suspend, as of April 14, 1977, its diplomatic relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan." The decision leaves staunchly anti-communist Saudi Arabia as the only country in the region which still maintains full relations with Taiwan. Lihya has formally recognised the people's republic, but has not exchanged embassies with it and Taiwan still maintains an embassy in Tripoli. Al Dinstour, which broke the story Wednesday under a Washington deadline, said the decision was the result of prolonged secret contacts there between Ambassador Salah and an official of the Chinese relations office. This suggested, to political observers here, that the move had the tacit blessing of the United States.

Saudi Arabia believes U.S. could bring just Middle East settlement

BEIRUT, April 14 (R). — Saudi Arabian Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, in an interview published here today, said he believed the U.S. could bring about a just Middle East settlement. He told the weekly magazine Al Hawadess: "I am confident the justice of the cause and U.S. capabilities, its international diplomatic standing and the American people's tradition will enable the American government headed by President Jimmy Carter to achieve the desired just solution." Prince Fahd said that if Israel opposed a just peace in the region its "intransigence... would lead to a stalemate and clearly endanger the world with unpredictable consequences." A stalemate would re-establish the state of no-war, no-peace that prevailed in the Middle East before the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, "and this will definitely lead to the possibility of a new war breaking out," he added. Prince Fahd affirmed there could be no peace in the region without solving the Palestine case on the basis of safeguarding "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, not on the grounds that these people are a group of refugees as stated by (1967 Security Council) resolution 242." He said: "This resolution has been superseded by events and if Israel does not admit this fact which has now been recognised by the world, this will mean persistence in intransigence and that Israel is not serious in seeking peace."

The Saudi crown prince added that his country's efforts to support a just solution for the Middle East problem were "based on its principles and on the justice of the cause... and on this matter we do not bargain or conclude deals." Referring to Saudi Arabia's oil policy, Prince Fahd said oil was in the service of the Arab cause, "but oil, too, is and industry and a market is affected by marketing and industrial factors." He said a change in oil production in his country was something natural. It was not subject to government decisions as much as it was affected by market conditions and related factors. In reply to a question on the two-tier oil price system and the move to unify prices at the next ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) due in Stockholm in July, Prince Fahd said: "Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have set the increase at five per cent, and there has been no change in this stand... We have agreed to take part in the meeting to discuss the question of prices and any other matter raised." OPEC's 11 other members had approved a 15 per cent increase in two stages this year -- 10 per cent starting in January and another five per cent from July.

South Lebanon relatively calm Gemayel, Assad talks in Damascus are "fruitful"

DAMASCUS, April 14 (R). — Mr. Pierre Gemayel, leader of Lebanon's rightwing Phalangist Party, had talks with President Hafez Assad here tonight on the situation in Lebanon, especially in the south, and means of "forestalling the schemes of Israel," official sources said here. During their meeting, which lasted over three-and-a-half hours, they discussed relations between Syria and Lebanon and the means of promoting cooperation between them, the sources added. Mr. Gemayel told reporters before leaving Damascus for Beirut tonight that his talks with President Assad were "fruitful and constructive." He said President Assad would give the Lebanese problem great importance during his discussions with Soviet and American leaders. Mr. Gemayel earlier discussed with Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam the latest developments in Lebanon and the attitude of the Christian Lebanese Front. Mr. Gemayel told reporters after his meeting with Mr. Khaddam that Syria's attitude towards Lebanon was clear and that the Syrians left Lebanese President Elias Sarkis full freedom of action. He paid tribute to the role of the Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon and said it could establish peace and order in 75 per cent of Lebanese territory. This force has not yet entered south Lebanon, which led to the flare up of events there again, he added. The attitude adopted by President Assad saved Lebanon from destruction and from becoming the greatest threat to the whole Arab nation, Mr. Gemayel said prior to his departure. "The partitioning of Lebanon is not a simple matter and if it happened it would have dragged the Arab World to a catastrophe," he said. Several explosions were heard today in southern Lebanon but the sensitive area along the border with Israel was reported relatively quiet for the third consecutive day.

The calm followed a night of sporadic shelling. Palestinians and leftists reported they shelled some rightwing Christian villages in retaliation for an Israeli artillery attack. In Beirut, two people were slightly hurt last night in bomb blasts that wrecked a Christian-owned boutique on the second anniversary of the shooting incident that triggered the Lebanese civil war. The casualties were reported by the Arab peace-keeping force. The blasts were in the Ain Al Rummaneh district, where rightists ambushed a bus carrying Palestinians on April 13, 1975 killing 27 people. The presence of all three at the talks suggested to observers here that they were important. Mr. Badran described the results of his visit as positive "reflecting the friendly relations and unity of purpose characterising the positive stands of two countries." Mr. Badran's visit to Jeddah came just four days before King Hussein leaves on a trip to Britain and the U.S., and on the same day as Amman announced its recognition of the People's Republic of China. Saudi Arabia still maintains diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Soviets reaffirm SALT rejection

MOSCOW, April 14 (R). — The Soviet Union today reaffirmed its rejection of Carter administration proposals for limiting nuclear arms and called instead for an arms pact based on guidelines agreed with former President Ford. An authoritative editorial in the Communist Party daily Pravda also warned the U.S. that the Soviet Union could build its own arsenal of controversial Cruise missiles should the Americans develop theirs within range of Soviet territory. The lengthy editorial stressed that Moscow wanted a Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreement based on the understanding reached by President Ford and Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev in 1974 at Vladivostok. Pravda amplified this known position by asserting that the Ford administration agreed in principle to include strict limitations on Cruise missiles in the projected accord. The U.S. denies agreeing to include the Cruise.

U.S. ready to act as co-sponsor of fresh talks on Rhodesia

WASHINGTON, April 14 (R). — The United States said today it was willing to act as co-convenor of fresh Geneva talks on Rhodesia if asked to do so by Britain. The state department said a decision on U.S. support and participation in a new Rhodesia conference could only be made after British Foreign Secretary David Owen completes a current tour of Southern Africa, spokesman Hodding Carter said. "If there is a useful possibility for us to help on the basis of what Mr. Owen says, we are willing to serve," Mr. Carter told reporters. "I'm not saying we are going to participate, but that we could." In South Africa yesterday, Dr. Owen was quoted as saying that he was proposing direct U.S. participation in a new constitutional conference to achieve a peaceful transfer of power from white minority to black majority rule in Rhodesia. Asked to define the difference, he said a co-chairman would preside over the meeting and help set the agenda. The United States was willing to participate in the conference but not to chair it.

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Mr Carter's bravery

For those who like to follow the process by which politicians' untempered campaign statements eventually are moulded by the forces of the real world, a fine drama is taking place these days in the United States Congress over legislation to fight the Arab boycott of Israel. During the U.S. presidential campaign, being against the Arab boycott was synonymous with loving one's mother and helping blind people cross the street. But now that President Carter is in office, and has to deal with the boycott issue as it really is instead of as his campaign requirements forced him to view it, we have a new line of thinking coming from the administration. The two relevant committees in the House and the Senate last week both approved their own versions of anti-boycott legislation, and the full Congress will now hammer out a compromise bill that should be voted on later this month. The Carter administration has been supporting two significant loopholes in the draft legislation, which would, in effect, allow the boycott to function in practice but would also put on the record American legislation that prohibits compliance with the boycott. The loopholes involve business by American companies' subsidiaries abroad and particularly in Arab countries, as well as the principle known as "unilateral selection", which means that if an Arab country buys a truck from the U.S., the Arabs can specify what kinds of tyres or radios they wish to have supplied with the truck. In effect, this legislation is a classic compromise, for it allows the Arabs to maintain their economic boycott, but it also seems to satisfy American opposition to the boycott, which is largely Zionist opposition. In fact, there have been complaints this week, particularly from Senator Proxmire of Wisconsin, that the legislation as it stands has too many loopholes to be really effective.

He is correct, of course. The Arab boycott of Israel is a legitimate tool of economic warfare, and the Carter administration realises this as well as anyone else. The wild campaign oratory of Mr. Carter and his enthusiastic sidekick Mr. Mondale has given way to the realities of the boycott and long-term American interests in the Middle East. Thus the Carter administration favours the compromise that has been drawn up, and the Zionist lobby does not. If Mr. Proxmire continues objecting to the legislation and presses for stronger laws, the Carter administration will be caught between protecting American interests or Zionist interests.

We're pleased that Mr. Carter has chosen to see his role in this case as being the guardian of American national interests, and not, as it was during the campaign, as the parrot of Israeli selfishness. It's nice to see the president of the United States being the president of the United States, and not the marionette of Israel. Mr. Carter is a very brave man to flush his campaign statements down the toilet.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Three Jordanian dailies commented in their Thursday editorials on the speech His Majesty King Hussein delivered to district governors and municipal council members Wednesday, in which he called for the formulation of a new form of participation between the governed and the governor, to promote Jordan from a country of services to one of production.

AL RA'I, said that His Majesty has emphasised the role of the human factor and stressed its importance in the development process. Development, the paper added, cannot be imported. It must be achieved by the joint potentials which Jordanians are capable of contributing. All development theories based only on facts and figures and ignoring the human factors have so far failed.

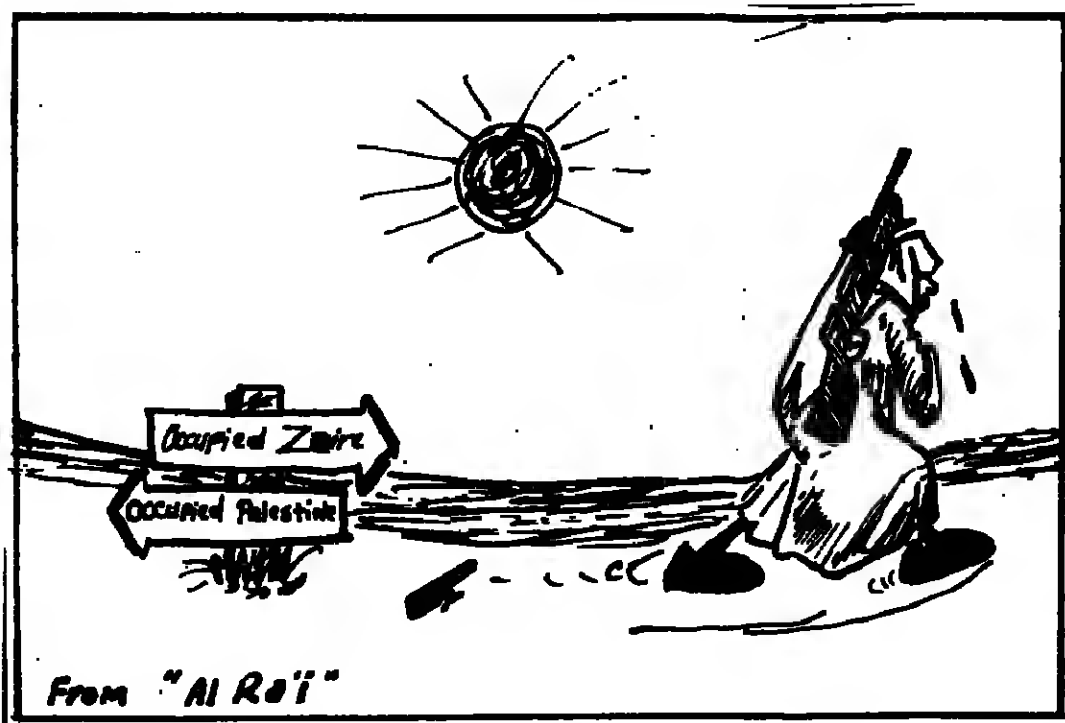
As citizens, we have become accustomed to just requesting more services from the government and hurrying it with added expenses while offering nothing in return. This is a pattern found in other third world countries. The time has come for us as citizens to contribute to the development of our country. The government should use the potentials and capabilities of all its citizens for that purpose.

Our Jordanian society should search for a new formula of participation between governors and governed and enable the country to benefit from all its citizens' potentials and capabilities. With the Jordanian economy based largely on agriculture, and with the village as the nucleus, authorities should plan for a comprehensive development of the country taking these things into consideration.

AL DUSTOUR, said that His Majesty has depicted the future Jordanian society which should be based on production and democracy. To achieve it, development should start at the level of the village with the human element as the essential factor. His Majesty, the paper said, has called for positive participation between governors and governed to search for formulas for the new society. He did not wish to impose a formula from above.

AL SHA'B, discussing the same subject said that Jordan which has succeeded in providing social services to the Jordanian citizen and has been an example in the field of development, should now prove its capability to produce. Social development cannot be granted from the outside or from above. It is the result of continuous work by the citizen and serious participation between him and the governor.

To transform Jordan into a country of production, the paper added, mutual trust between the citizen and the governor should be deepened; and the sense of responsibility and participation developed.



The Kremlin tries to pick up influence in Turkey and black Africa

MOSCOW, Russia (CSM) — In a hushy few days for Soviet diplomats, the Kremlin has just made new efforts to pick up influence in two strategic areas of the world.

The first is on the south-eastern flank of NATO. The Soviets used the visit to Moscow of Turkish Foreign Minister Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil to put new stress on their desire to improve ties with Turkey, a NATO member whose ties with Washington deteriorated after it invaded Cyprus in 1974.

The second is in Black African states. By giving vast publicity to the formal ratification here of the Soviet treaty with Angola, Moscow is seen to be signalling both black Africans and the Carter administration that it intends to keep on supporting black African liberation movements.

Such support is provided for in the Soviet definition of détente. Western analysts point out. Soviet publications also are paying more attention to Mozambique and Tanzania, which U.S.S.R. Chief of State Nikolai Podgorniy will be visiting soon.

So far, success of the Soviet efforts appears to be mixed. Moscow has tried to improve its links with Turkey since the United States embargoed arms to that country after Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974. For a while, the Turks seemed interested in giving the impression to Washington that they were thinking of leaning more toward Moscow.

Western analysts here point out that Turkey's ties with Washington have improved somewhat in recent months. Special presidential envoy Clark Clifford was in the Turkish capital recently.

Yet the Turks are watching closely to see what President Carter intends to do with the U.S.-Turkish defense pact negotiated by the Ford administration. It was said to involve a \$1-billion aid package in return for the recognizing of key U.S. defense and listening posts on the Soviet border.

Turkey's current ties with the Soviets are judged by Western analysts here to be more correct than cool. The tone of the foreign minister's comments was seen to be careful and restrained.

Three new agreements were signed — on economic aid, on scientific cooperation, and on preventing air hijacking.

But Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, back at work after a recent illness, seemed as interested in sending an indirect message to the United States not to interfere in Soviet human rights affairs as he was in talking about Turkey and Cyprus.

Any substantial change in Soviet-Turkish ties must await the outcome of the Turkish elections in the autumn, diplomats here point out.

Nonetheless, the Soviets are stressing anew their aid program to Turkey — more than \$1.2 billion since 1954, including a huge \$700-million credit in 1975. The money is for expanding the Iskenderun steel plant and building an aluminum plant and two thermal power stations.

On Cyprus, the Soviets seem a little more willing to envisage a two-zone island than they were before the meeting recently between Archbishop Makarios and Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader.

Moscow's overall aim it seems, is to try to preserve Cyprus as a nonaligned nation out of direct Turkish or Greek orbits. Signs of a shift are evidence that such an aim seems harder to attain. Few in the area appear interested in the standing Soviet suggestion of a large conference to settle the issue.

In black Africa the Soviets are maneuvering steadily to keep the support of as many black Africans as possible. Ratification March 14 of the friendship treaty with Angola by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet was given great fanfare here.

This is in line with the Soviet definition of détente in general: Moving the ideological struggle from armed to nonarmed battle grounds — and intensifying the peaceful efforts.

Western analysts tend to doubt Soviet involvement in the Katanga force that has crossed into Zaïre, however — though they are puzzled as to how the force could have gone in from Angolan territory without the knowledge of President Nkomo.

Even indirect Soviet involvement would raise warning flags all over black Africa, analysts say, as to future Soviet intentions toward other sovereign states. Chancery lights burn late here as diplomats assess possible scenarios for the future.

President Bongo of Gabon is to take over as OAU chairman

With Africa constantly in the world headlines these days, there is a special interest in the man who will take over as Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity in June.

LAGOS, (WFS) — In June, President Omar Bongo of Gabon will take over from Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of Mauritius as Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The transfer of chairmanship of the OAU from one state to another is often an occasion for scrutiny of the recipient head of state and country. For example, when, in 1975, it was the turn of President Idi Amin Dada to hold the post, many African states protested. Only 18 out of 46 heads of states eventually attended the Kampala summit while Tanzania, Zambia, and Botswana boycotted the

conference altogether.

Similarly, last year, Sir Seewoosagur's chairmanship provoked controversy on two grounds. First, that the Queen of England was still Mauritius' head of state, and, secondly, that the island was a haven for South African tourists and that a summit there offered Pretoria the opportunity to filter spies into the organisation's deliberations.

President Bongo of Gabon has also not been without criticism over the past four years, mainly for allowing Gabon to drift into strong commercial ties with South Africa.

Although many African states are in one form or another economically inevitably linked with South Africa, Gabon's open trade ties with the apartheid regime have been a bitter disappointment to many African states, especially as Gabon stands out clearly as an economic force to be reckoned with in African struggles against white minorities in southern Africa.

Most African political observers have argued that Gabon was the only country in Africa which could have brought pressure to bear on France over her decision recently to sell two nuclear power plants to South Africa. Gabon is known to be France's principal supplier of uranium (in fact 75 per cent of France's needs) and a threat that she would cut the supply, it was argued, could have forced France to reconsider the sale and possible further arms deal with Pretoria. It was admitted, though, that such a move would have had serious repercussions on Gabon's economy.

However, unlike Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's response to criticism, such as the temporary ban on South African tourists, who contribute largely to the foreign exchange earnings of Mauritius, President Bongo is unlikely to take actions that could alter Gabon's relations with South Africa before the OAU conference in Libreville, from July 2-8.

The price for such actions could be damaged relations with France — a relationship many African observers believe could be beneficial during President Bongo's term as chairman of the OAU. It seems unlikely that an African state will make much of an issue of it.

Certainly, the Gabonese head of state has recognised that to be Africa's spokesman for one year entails certain conditions. And over the past six months Gabon has been preparing to take the lead.

Gabon's decision last September to pull out of OCAM (Organisation Communautaire Africaine et Mauricienne), which until recently, was a political association of Francophone African states, was in this direction. President Bongo has described the organisation as "anachronistic" and incompatible with the OAU. This tallies with Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's criticism of the organisation when it came into existence in 1965.

The Gabonese authorities also recognise that good neighbourliness is vital in the role which the country will be playing in African affairs in the coming months. Unlike Uganda, whose relations with neighbours have never been good and whose President, Idi Amin, during his term as OAU

chairman claimed Kenyan territories and provoked many African states, Gabon maintains good relations with his neighbours. In fact, late in December she re-opened borders with Cameroon after a brief closure following a shooting incident along the border on December 1.

Again, Gabon's reaction to allegations of complicity in the raid on Cotonou, Benin, on January 18 points to the fact that she does not wish to be drawn into hostility with other African countries, at least at the time being. With Morocco, the other country accused of involvement, she suspended her membership in the OAU, the Gabonese Foreign Minister, Mr. Mari Bongo, has categorically denied his country's involvement, and has asked the UN investigation commission whose report implicates Gabon, to make further inquiries. There is, however, still the general feeling that the raid on Cotonou stopped over in Gabon to refuel. Whether or not this was the knowledge of the Gabonese authorities remains to be seen.

Conciliation, therefore, seems to be the sort of leadership that Africa can expect from Gabon when President Bongo takes over at the OAU. But meanwhile, observers say Gabon's relations with France during this period as potentially advantageous.

French presidents have always had special relations with Africa. President Bongo since he succeeded, Leon Mba in 1967. And, indeed, since coming to power in 1974, President Giscard d'Estaing has visited Gabon twice. Last month the Gabonese president paid a successful private visit to Paris where he held talks with the French President.

There is speculation that President Bongo will exploit this personal relationship during his term as OAU chairman to find solutions to areas of conflict between France and Africa, including, for example, the return of Mayotte to the Comoros Islands, while President Senghor of Senegal another friend of France, recently publicly called upon France to do.

Aid to Zaïre proves European role in Africa

PARIS, April 14 (AFP) — French aid to Zaïre "proves the European role in Africa," the Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Europe, Jean-Pierre Giscard d'Estaing, said in a TV interview a few days after the French state-owned TF1 channel in Kinshasa, President Mobutu said that President Giscard d'Estaing did not hesitate "one instant" in answering favourably to request from Zaïre and Morocco to aid in repelling "rebels" in Shaba province (ex-Katanga).

He said that Zaïre requested the stationing of neutral observers in the towns of Dilolo and Lusulu "the two principal routes into Zaïre from Angola". The observers would be required to report if there is any "coming and going" between the two countries. If it is established that there is no movement to support the "rebels" in Shaba, Zaïre will have to prove that it is an internal affair "and we will make it our affair," he said.

Only at that moment will "we be able to remove all suspicion from Angola," he said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION		AMMAN AIRPORT		VOICE OF AMERICA	
Channel 3 & 6	18:30 Big valley	Arrivals:	8:00 Beirut (EA)	GMT 03:00	The Breakfast Show
10:00 Quran	20:30 News in Arabic	11:15 Aleppo, Damascus	8:45 Beirut (MEA)	06:30	03:00 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
10:10 Cartoons	Channel 3	11:45 (SAA)	8:45 Cairo (EA)	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
10:35 Encyclopaedia Britannica	19:30 Religious programme	12:45 (KAC)	10:00 Athens, Amsterdam, (ELM)	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
10:55 Arabic series	20:30 Arabic series	16:20 Jeddah, Medina, Hacl.	10:30 Cairo	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
11:25 Three stooges	21:30 Reportage	16:40 Jeddah, Medina, Hacl.	12:00 Damascus (SAA)	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
11:55 Religious programme	Channel 6	17:00 Paris, Rome	14:30 Aqaba	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
12:30 Cultural film	19:30 News in Hebrew	17:30 Cairo	14:45 Beirut (KAC)	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
12:45 Arabic series	19:45 Varieties	17:30 Jeddah, Trif, Medina	18:15 Trif, Medina, Jeddah (SDI)	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
13:05 Varieties	20:30 George and Mildred	18:00 Madrid, Athens	18:30 Dubai, Karachi	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
14:30 Soccer match	21:10 The angels	18:30 Beirut (AF)	20:00 Kuwait	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
15:00 Doc. Filoz	22:00 News in English	19:40 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)	20:30 Tehran	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
16:55 Arabic feature	22:15 Kojak	21:35 London (air)	22:35 Doha, Muscat, Rawalpindi (RA)	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
		20:30 Rome (Alitalia)	01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)	06:30	06:30 GMT, 05:00, and 18:30
RADIO JORDAN		BBC RADIO		USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
7:00 Breakfast show	14:30 Good vibrations	05:00 World News: 24 hours	14:15 Letterbox	Ambulance (government) Tel. 78111	
7:30 News	15:00 Concert hour	05:30 Sarah Ward	14:20 My Kind of Music		
7:45 News reports	15:00 Old favourites	05:45 The World Today	15:00 Radio Newsworld	Civil defence rescue Tel. 24311-4	
8:00 Sign off	15:30 Easy listening	05:45 Jane Eyre	15:15 Outlook		
8:30 Jordan weekly	16:00 Pop station	06:00 News: Press Review	16:00 News: Commentary	Fire department Tel. 22000	
9:00 Listeners' choice	16:30 News summary	06:30 My Kind of Music	16:15 News in Action		
10:00 My kind of music	17:00 Pop session	06:30 News: 24 hours	16:30 The World Today	First aid, fire, police Tel. 19	
11:00 Catch the words	17:30 Songs for you	07:00 News	17:00 News		
11:45 Arab centres	18:45 Book review	07:30 Sarah Ward	17:30 News	Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) Tel. 30211-2	
12:00 Pop session	19:30 News	07:45 Merchant Navy Prog.	17:30 Book Choice		
12:30 News summary	19:30 News	07:45 News	17:30 Sports Round-up	Jordanian water services (emergency) Tel. 37111-3	
13:05 Pop session	19:30 News	08:00 News: Reflections	17:30 News		
14:00 News	19:30 News	08:15 Music for Wind Instruments	17:30 News	Police headquarters Tel. 30141	
14:10 Radio magazine	19:30 Sign off	08:30 Jazz Club	17:30 News		
EMERGENCIES		08:30 News: Press Review	17:30 News	Naphth, nursing, patrol, rescue, police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help Tel. 31111, 37777	
Doctors:	Isa'af (20210)	08:30 The World Today	17:30 News		
Amman:	College (25010)	09:30 Financial News	17:30 News	Cultural Centres	
Fuad Hassan Jabb (71234)	Iskand:	09:45 Jane Eyre	17:30 News		
Anwar Moussa Haj (75888)	Tbeinat:	10:15 Merchant Navy	17:30 News	American Centre (USIS) Tel. 41200	
Iskand:	Bin Cina	11:00 Folk and Country	17:30 News		
Hani Gharyabeh (2676)	Zarga:	11:16 Folk of England	17:30 News	British Council Tel. 30141-5	
Akram Momani	Hikma	11:30 Discovery	17:30 News		
Zarga:	Taxi:	12:00 Radio Newsworld	17:30 News	French Cultural Centre Tel. 37000	
Nasrat Ammani (82880)	Medical City (44281)	12:15 Composer and Inter.	17:30 News		
Pharmacies:	University (61001)	12:45 Sports Round-up	17:30 News	Goethe Institute Tel. 30000	
Amman:	Khayyam (41541)	13:00 News: 24 hours	17:30 News		
Bassam (27788)	Nakda (60003)	13:30 New Ideas	17:30 News	Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 30000	
Fateleh (37140)		13:45 From the Weeklies	17:30 News		
		13:45 Don Moss Requests	17:30 News	Amman Municipal Library Tel. 30000	

هنا صحتنا

Court releases details of King Hussein's visit to U.S.

AMMAN (JNA). — An official at the Royal Court has announced that the delegation accompanying His Majesty Hussein during his official visit to the United States April 25 will include Chief of Royal Court Sharif Ahmad Sharaf, Minister of Amer Khanmash, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt. Gen.

Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker, Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Abdullah Salah, President of the National Planning Council Hanna Odeh and a number of civilian and military officials.

The source added that His Majesty will start official talks with President Jimmy Carter on the first day of his visit and will then meet Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who will hold a luncheon in honour of the King. President Carter will also hold a working dinner, during which the two leaders will resume their talks, which will be concluded on the second day.

Joint maritime company meets April 23

AMMAN (JNA). — The General Assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian Maritime Company will be held on April 23. The meeting, which will be chaired by the Syrian and Jordanian ministers of transport, will approve the company's budget and draw up a working plan.

Minister of Transport Ali al-Khatib, presently accompanying Prince Hassan on a visit to the United States, stated yesterday that he discussed with his Syrian counterpart a number of subjects related to the joint Jordanian-Syrian Transport Company and that they agreed on a coordination in this

King Hussein will be presented with an honorary doctorate for his efforts in developing Jordan and for his work aimed at achieving a just peace in the Middle East, the source continued.

During the visit, His Majesty will deliver a number of speeches at academic institutions, and will hold press conferences during which he will explain Jordan's concept of peace in the Middle East. His Majesty will also tour a number of states for the same purpose.

The official source concluded by saying that the King will attend a luncheon party held in his honour by Congress, when he will answer questions on the Middle East issue.

NATIONAL NOTES

AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable to the President of the Korean Democratic Republic, congratulating him on the occasion of his birthday.

AMMAN. — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim visited the Bahraini, Soviet and French ambassadors here today.

AMMAN. — The Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry, Sami al-Hamad, received the West German and South Korean ambassadors here Thursday.

AMMAN. — The Directorate of Public Security has announced the road linking Ma'in hot springs and the Dead Sea is closed for small cars because of heavy rain.



Staff and students of the Syrian Military College are received at Jordan's military institute Thursday at the start of a two-day visit. (JNA photo).

Housing experts visit development projects

AMMAN (JNA). — Delegations to the Arab Housing Seminar, which ended Wednesday, visited a number of development projects Thursday.

At Na'ur, 15 kms southwest of Amman, the delegations saw a factory which will produce ready-made doors. It is expected to begin work next month.

The factory, the biggest of its kind in the area, will produce 400 doors every eight hours. Its productive capacity may be raised to 1,000 doors daily.

The delegates also visited the Jordan Valley, where they were

briefed on the projects which the Jordan Valley Commission is now carrying out. The Commission's Deputy Director, Dr. Munther Haddadin, said the Jordan Valley projects aim to increase the area of irrigated land to 360,000 dunums by 1982. Water will come from King Talal Dam and the projected Maqarin Dam on the Yarmouk River, in addition to the smaller Ziqlab and Al Kufrein dams.

HOUSING BANK MAKES 1976 PROFIT OF JD 0.5 m

AMMAN (JNA). — The Housing Bank made a profit of JD 554,000 in 1976, according to Chairman Zuhair Khoury.

Reporting to the Board of Administration Thursday, he stated that the bank's assets jumped JD 19 million to reach JD 32 million in the same year.

He further explained that 3,111 loans — totalling JD 34 million — had been granted for the construction of 8,464 housing units in the country.

ALIA APPLIES FOR PERMIT TO FLY TO NEW YORK

WASHINGTON, April 14 (R). — The airlines of Jordan and Syria have applied to the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) for permits to fly to the United States, the Jordan Information Bureau said here yesterday.

Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Syrian Arab Airlines (SAA) want to operate joint passenger and cargo services between New York City, Amman and Damascus using Boeing 747 jumbo jets.

They hope to begin services this summer on two round-trip flights a week. One would offer non-stop services between New York and Amman and the other between New York and Damascus.

Both the CAB and President Carter must approve the permits before they can be issued.

Egyptian trade team due here

AMMAN (JNA). — An Egyptian trade delegation headed by the Under Secretary at the Trade Ministry will arrive in Amman on April 28 for talks with Jordanian officials on the implementation of the trade protocol signed between Jordan and Egypt last February.

The protocol provides for enlarging the volume of trade exchange between the two countries to JD 8.5 million.

Probe starts into new social security scheme

AMMAN (JNA). — A meeting was held at the Ministry of Interior Thursday to discuss the proposed social security law, which His Majesty King Hussein requested.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of labour, industry and commerce and finance, the acting minister of health, the president of the Union of Jordanian Chambers

of Commerce, the presidents of the Bar, Medical, Pharmacists and Press Associations and the head of the General Union of Workers' Associations.

Proposals that the law covers cases of normal illness and maternity, and includes contractual government employees were voiced during the meeting. All present praised the law, and said that it would help economic progress in the country.

Acting Minister of Health Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh presented a working paper which listed in detail the cases to be covered by the social security law, the premiums to be paid and its effect on the economy. The Ministry of Labour will establish a special bureau to deal with all requests and clarifications needed on the law. A second meeting will be held next Thursday.

Development information course opens

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh opens a study course on developmental information at the Information Training Centre Saturday.

The participants in this course will include a number of television directors and programmers at the Syrian Ministry of Information and a number of their Jordanian colleagues at the television and broadcasting stations and other information departments.

The programme includes a number of lectures on different subjects by ministers and officials. The participants will prepare and produce several radio and television programmes on developmental projects and achievements.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.6
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	139.1	139.5
French franc	66.8	67.0
Swiss franc	130.9	131.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.5	93.8
Lebanese pound	108.9	109.5
Syrian pound	81.8	82.0
Iraqi dinar	94.0	94.8
Kuwaiti dinar	1,145.0	1,152.0
Libyan dinar	810.0	820.0
Egyptian pound	465.0	472.0
UAE dirham	84.8	84.8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I refer to the recent article in your paper on Transcendental Meditation, and would like to make some comments on the various aspects discussed by Yussif Ghandour, namely:

1. The article compares T.M. with Zeo and Yoga techniques and states that T.M. is immediate, whereas Zeo and Yoga techniques "show up clearly only after 15 to 25 years of practice." Such a comparison is very misleading as the various methods and practices cannot be directly related. Zeo meditation of "no-mind" does involve long practice (as does T.M.), but who can state the depth of pure awareness between it and T.M. and say one is better than the other? Similarly, Yoga meditation varies considerably in technique and application. Some aspects of Yoga meditation include physical as well as mental control which cannot be practiced without expert guidance and cannot in any way be compared with T.M. — however much the ultimate objective may be the same.

It is very wrong to put down a time scale for achievement in meditation because development depends on application and the degree desired by the individual. No one can state the ultimate in pure awareness, or even try to describe such a state.

There are many techniques for meditation and it is up to the individual to decide which suits him best. The only proviso is that all of them require to be practiced regularly.

2. Whilst meditation has shown to improve certain physical and mental aspects of health, the ultimate aim is to achieve "pure awareness", which cannot be measured.

Meditation is only part of

the eight-fold path of Yoga (i.e. Yama (abstinence), Niyama (observance), Asana (posture), Pranayama (breath control), Dharana (concentration), Pratyahara (sense withdrawal), Dhyana (meditation), and Samadhi (identification) outlined by Patanjali in the quest for Kaivalya (pure consciousness). This path, which is the basis of all Yoga, is performed to achieve a balance between physical and mental development — not one to the exclusion of the others.

3. One of the difficulties in teaching the techniques of meditation is to explain its meaning in Yoga terms, and its comparison between contemplation and concentration. Neither of these can be described as types of meditation. The individual has first of all to be made aware of contemplation and concentration before developing into meditation.

C. L. Madin.

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Bulgaria mingles its Balkan past with modern ideology

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CSM). — Bulgaria occupies an attractive corner of Europe where an ancient past and a modern present often mingle.

It calls itself a "socialist country" and is involved in an industrialisation process that has lifted it out of its backward, Balkan past.

Yet the Bulgarians preserve the past — even artifacts that predate ancestors who came from the Volga-Urals to this territory south of the Danube 14 centuries ago.

The Thracians founded what is now Bulgaria. The area was developed by the Romans, and archaeological reminders of both abound.

The present here hinges on Bulgaria's unequivocal alliance with the Soviet Union. This has furnished the technical wherewithal to bring the country into the 20th century — new industries, suburban housing, cars, television, and a usually well-stocked consumer market.

Politically, the country's rulers remain as severely "orthodox" as the Soviet Union's. But new winds are stirring. Younger economists stress the need for decentralised, flexible management.

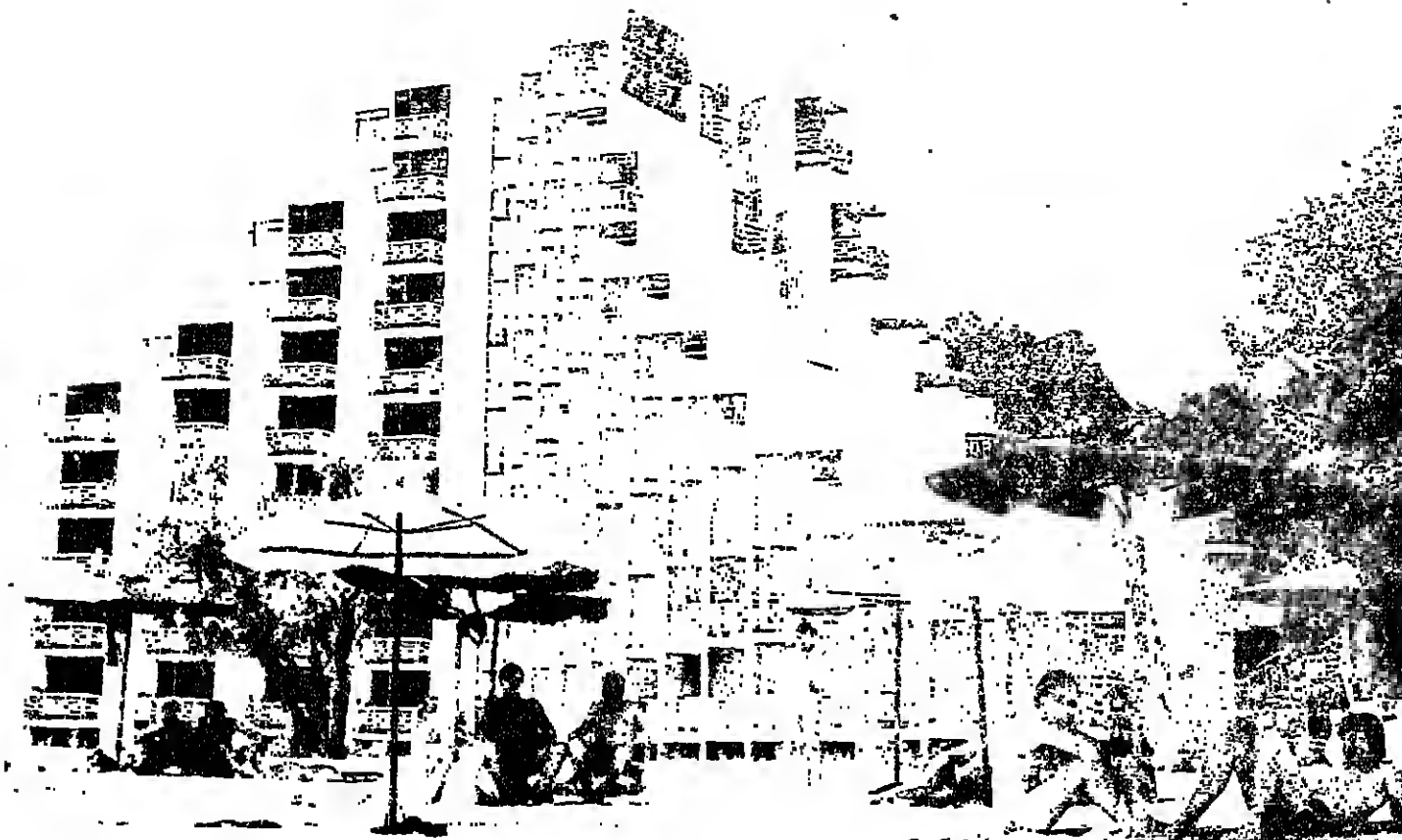
More and more youths rebel at unnecessary curbs on travel and at official fussiness about Western culture. They are not unpatriotic. They simply desire wider horizons.



A housewife from Sofia greets a stranger.



Horsecars and automobiles share the cobblestone road.



Elements of traditional Bulgarian architecture have been treated in a contemporary manner.

Nur Misuari emerges as head of southern Philippines provisional government

MANILA, April 14, (AFP). — Four years after mounting a revolt for Moslem autonomy, university teacher Nur Misuari is finally coming out of his Libyan exile to head a provisional government in southern Philippines.

Hunted down as a secessionist rebel, the youthful chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) slipped out of the country sometime in 1973 to direct the rebellion first from neighboring Sabah, later from distant Tripoli.

Libya is the rebellion's chief support, supplying the insurgents with money and arms. It was also Libyan Leader Col. Moammer Qadhafi jointly with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos who worked out a compromise peace formula for settling a conflict that has claimed some 20,000 lives by official count.

Briefly, the formula provides for the setting up of a provisional government in 13 southern provinces and, later, of a regular autonomous government through elections. The geographical composition and

powers of the new region are to be determined by a referendum scheduled for Sunday.

There was uncertainty as to whether the MNLF would accept the formula or not until Mr. Misuari finally sent word from Jeddah this week that he was participating in the provisional government whose chairmanship had been offered to him by Mr. Marcos.

As provisional leader, Mr. Misuari is also expected to play a key role in the future autonomous government.

Revolutions and exile breed legends but who is Nur Misuari? Bits of information about him give a picture of a man of many faces, an elusive figure, a blurred form seen as it were through the haze of the Libyan desert.

Age 37 or 38, he was formerly a political science instructor at the University of the Philippines, a hot-bed of student activism before Mr. Marcos declared martial law in September 1972.

It was apparently after proclamation of martial law that

Mr. Misuari and his so-called "Young Turks" went underground.

To the young Moslems who followed his trail, he was perhaps some kind of a voice preaching the liberation of three million Moslems from social and economic domination by their more affluent, numerically superior Christian compatriots from the north.

Navy Commodore Gil Fernandez, one-time chief of the southern military command, described Mr. Misuari as a "good forceful talker" who supposedly used ideological and religious issues to attract people, even outlaws, to the MNLF ranks.

"Misuari exploited them by saying that the arrival of troops in the south was the beginning of a plan to Christianise Moslems," the commodore once told newsmen.

To the military, Mr. Misuari was more than a separatist rebel: He was also supposedly allied with Communist Party Chairman Jose Maria Sison. Military dossiers in fact once put him down as a top man in the communist hierarchy.

To one Moslem government

employee in his hometown Mr. Misuari was a man who wanted to rule "to overcome his inferiority complex."

To residents of Manila, where the MNLF rebellion is a vague and distant war, he is only a photograph in the newspapers: A face dominated by a thick moustache and coal-black eyes.

Mr. Misuari's birth place is said to be the small Moslem island of Jolo in the deep south whose inhabitants are called Tausog, an ethnic group known for their skills as warriors.

But his reputation was not to be that of a guerrilla fighter. His claim to MNLF leadership, authorities say, rests on his being its "brains".

In the university, he is said to be a quiet figure although, reports say, he once led a demonstration in front of Mr. Marcos' presidential palace to protest the mysterious killings of Moslem recruits in a secret army training camp outside Manila in 1968.

Later he was to join the so-called "Mindanao Independence Movement" (MIM) but was disillusioned by its leadership and broke away from it.

In 1971 he ran for a seat in the constitutional convention that was to frame a new Philippine constitution. His plan was to work for a constitutional provision that would establish a federal Moslem government in Mindanao.

His hopes were dashed when he lost his election bid, reportedly for lack of funds. Two years later he was in the hills, with a price of 50,000 pesos (7,000 U.S. dollars) on his head.

In a press interview five years before, the young Misuari told a journalist that the Moslem struggle "is matter of necessity, not prompted by idealism."

Better designs revive airships as cargo carriers

The airship is coming into its own again — as a cargo carrier. But the modern dirigible is much safer than the passenger-carrying vessels of the earlier years of the century. Unlike the Hindenberg and the R100 and R101 of the thirties, which used inflammable hydrogen as a lifting gas, today's airships use the non-inflammable helium.

LONDON, (Gemin). — Overcrowded shipping lanes, delays and inefficient port handling together with a growing need to transport heavy machinery to industrial sites, have led to a renewed interest by many nations in airships as cargo carriers.

Experts are convinced that giant airships capable of carrying 1,000 tons of cargo will be commonplace by the end of the century.

A British company, Aerospace Developments, for instance, is at this time, completing a contract to build 22 helium-filled airships for use in South America, mainly in Venezuela and Peru. The vehicles, powered by turboprop engines,

can fly at 240 kph and can cover in 24 hours a distance which would take a cargo ship 20 days. The cost, the British makers claim, works out at U.S. \$150 per km.

The United States, which has for decades patrolled coastal waters by airships flown by the U.S. coastguard, is building dirigibles for freight carrying and observation duties.

The Goodyear Tyre Company is working on two enormous dirigibles, one 550 metres in length, the other around 300 metres. The larger ship will be powered by no less than 16 turboprops while the other will be manoeuvred by ten Sikorsky CH-53E helicopters, five on either side of the structure.

The ships have been designed to cross the U.S. in 24 hours carrying heavy cargoes, nuclear reactors and building equipment. They are expected to be invaluable when used on major engineering works like dam building.

Perhaps the most promising development of all is being carried out in Britain, where John West, who designed the revolutionary hull of the P & O liner Canberra, is at work on a veritable "flying saucer" to be called "Sky Ship".

The Sky Ship, happily nicknamed "Sky Chip" by journalists who saw a model demonstrated at the Royal Aeronautical Establishment will be driven by 10 Rolls Royce Tyne turbojets mounted around its "rim". Sky Ship is planned for emergency military use and is being designed to carry troops and fighting vehicles.

Sky Ship enthusiasts claim that this actual flying saucer could carry passengers across the North Atlantic for U.S. \$35 — a cost of less than 2 cents per ton mile. Another proposal for future Sky Ships is to fit them up as super luxury flying hotels.

There have been spectacular mishaps with lighter than air

vehicles in the past which have given them what some critics call a "disaster image". They say, was due to misplacement of using explosive hydrogen gas instead of more expensive helium, which is stable and does not explode.

The disasters of the unfortunate British R-101 and that the German Hindenburg in the thirties set back developments for decades.

The R-101 was destroyed by fire when it hit the cliffs at Beaulieu, France, while on its way to India in October, 1930. Forty-eight lives were lost. The Hindenburg crash in flames near its mooring at Lakehurst, New Jersey, U.S., killing 35 passengers and crew in 1937.

The world's first lighter-than-air machine was a balloon buoyant by hot air rising from a fire slung underneath it. A balloon was constructed by brothers Stephen and Joseph Montgolfier of Paris. It flew the first time on November 1783 and carried two men safely for two miles.

The Montgolfier hot air balloon was soon followed by a balloon filled with hydrogen. This first flew on December 1783 but it was soon realised that such balloons were at the mercy of the winds and they needed to be self-propelled and of a shape which would present a minimum of resistance to the wind.

The first airship shaped much like the giant lighter-than-air craft seen in World War I was designed by Frenchman Henri Giffard. It was driven by steam engine and made its first flight on September 1852. The true forerunner of the modern airship, however, was the vehicle designed by Santos Dumont, a young Brazilian, which was driven by a petrol motor.

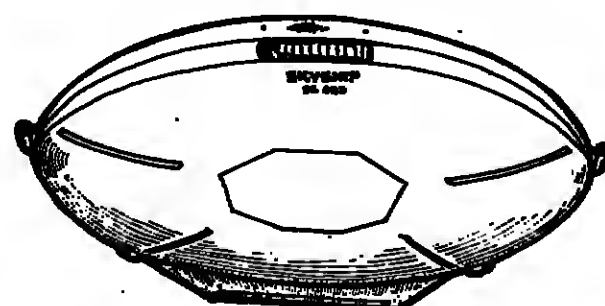
During World War I a German zeppelin (so named after its designer, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin) made a remarkable 5,500 mile non-stop flight from Bulgaria — via the Bosphorus and the Red Sea — to Central Africa. It carried 15 tons of arms for beleaguered German forces in Tanganyika (Tanzania).

Pilots of conventional aircraft tend to look askance at the lumbering monsters of the air. With justification they say: an airship is stable when they are or tall, to wind, but at an angle, the problem of drift becomes formidable. Modern designs, however, by using power engines have made the dirigibles more manoeuvrable.

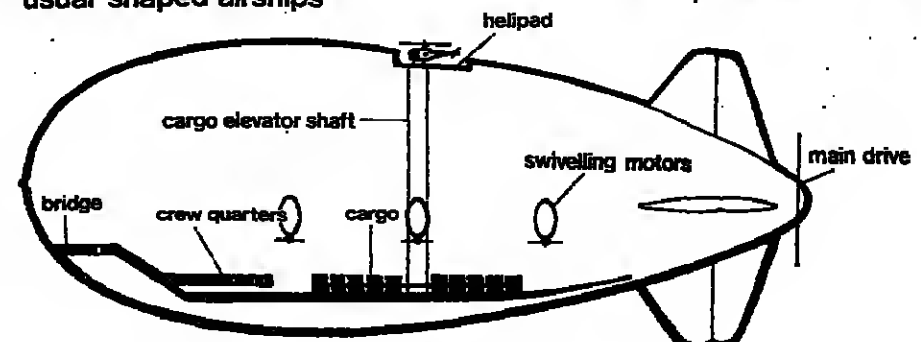
So far as development of larger airships is concerned, number of shipping companies have set up subsidiaries to study the feasibility of "jumbo" airships and, ultimately to operate them.

One such company, Manchester Liners, has established "Cargo Airships" under the direction of Max Rynish. Rynish believes totally in the use of airships as cargo carriers. He points out that air-craft currently carry less than half one per cent of the world's freight. Operational versatility in particular the ability to provide a "door to door" service he believes to be one of the advantages of the airship of the future.

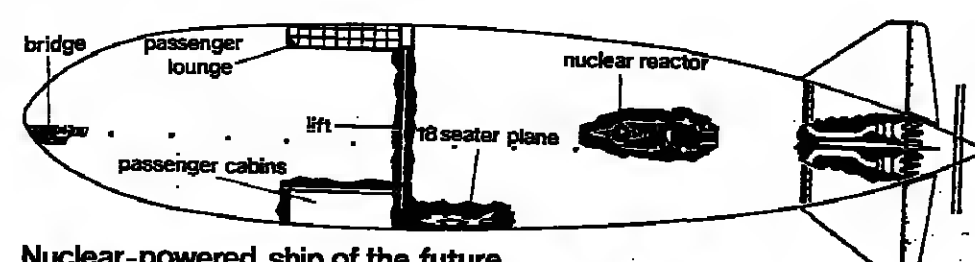
SPACE-AGE AIRSHIPS



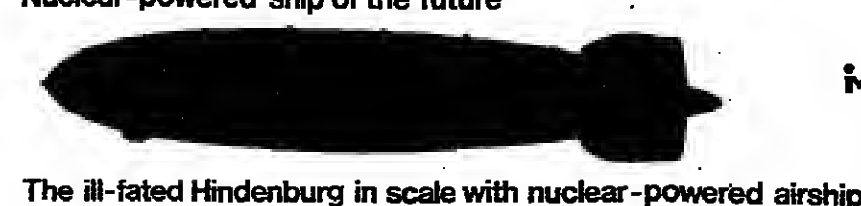
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The ill-fated Hindenburg in scale with nuclear-powered airship

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هنا صند القليل

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

West deals.
NORTH
♠ 632
♥ 38
♦ 52
♣ 1074

should perhaps have passed. He was lucky to find a magic hand in dummy.

West led his top club, woo by declarer. The auction made it a near certainty that East had no spades, so declarer knew he could out afford to lead the suit from his hand. Fortunately, dummy held the missing high trumps, so declarer planned to see them as entries toward his hand.

After winning the ace of clubs, declarer cashed the ace of hearts, entered dummy by leading a low trump to the eight and discarded a

spade on the king of hearts. When he led a spade from dummy, East realized that it would be futile to ruff, for he

would be ruffing one of declarer's losers. (If he does ruff, declarer makes the contract by drawing the last

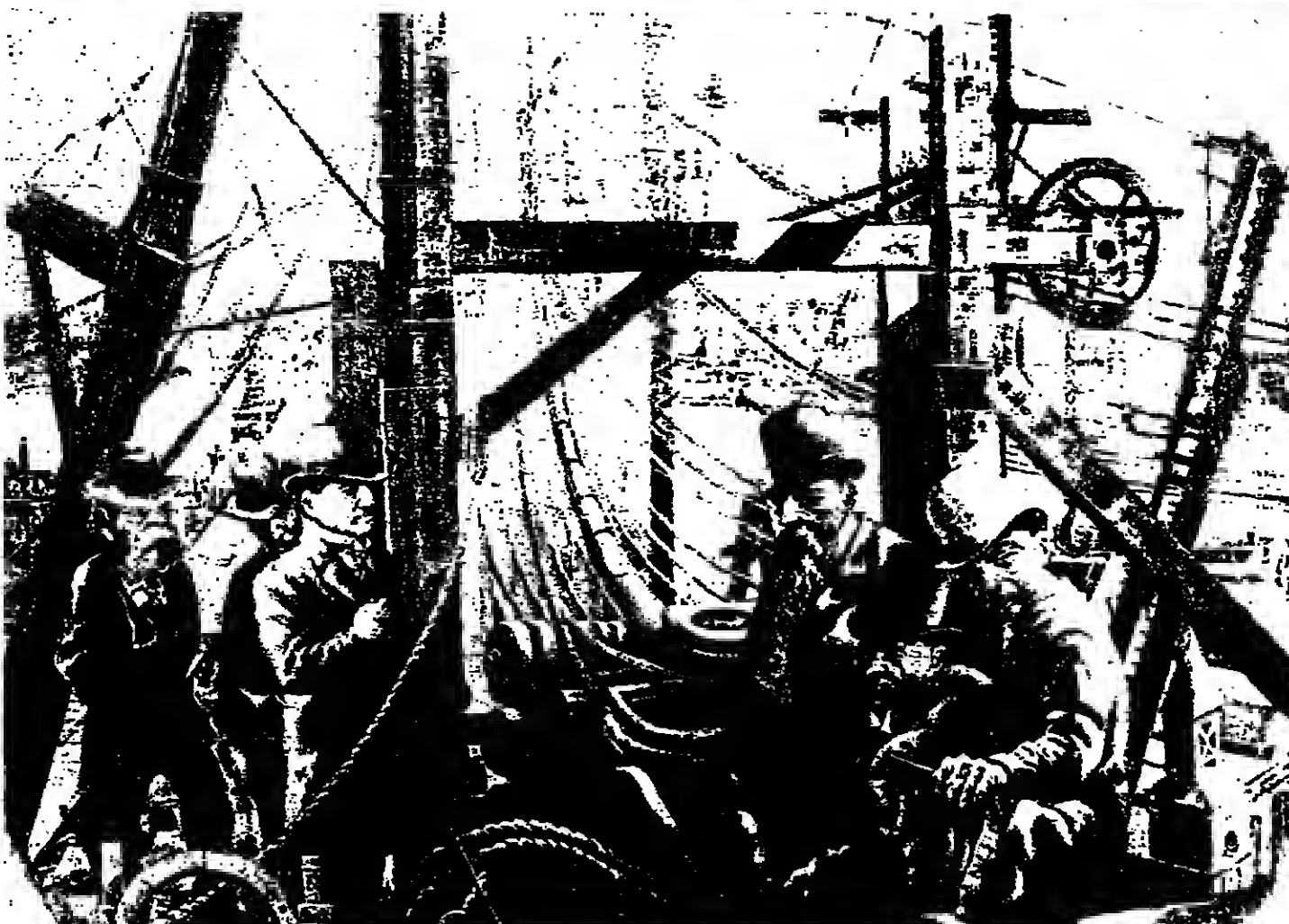
trump and ruffing his remaining low spade on the table.)

Declarer reentered dummy with the nine of trumps

and again led a spade. Once more it would not have helped East to ruff, so again he

sluffed. But declarer was in charge. He ruffed a spade with the jack of trumps, came back to his hand with a club ruff and drew the last trump. Declarer still had a spade to concede, but that was his only loser.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



BUILDING OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE - This painting, made of oil on canvas by Xavier Gonzalez, recently appeared in the Art Students League exhibit in New York marking their 100th year anniversary.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is adverse for relying upon your intuition and hunches as well as for allowing yourself to be at odds with a companion over a fancied slight. Be more optimistic.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Seriously apply yourself and handle those duties that are important to your future welfare. Think constructively.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study what your true goals are and then take positive methods to achieve them. Strive for increased happiness.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be certain you handle public affairs wisely during the daytime before going out socially in the evening. Be poised.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make certain you study every facet of a new venture you have in mind before putting it in operation.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Daytime hours are not good for trying to escape an important responsibility you have assumed. Take needed health treatments.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't argue with an associate during the daytime and avoid serious trouble. Show more devotion to loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Use more up-to-date methods in your line of endeavor for best results at this time. Improve your appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The planets are not favorable for any recreational activities during the daytime. Creative projects need more study.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get busy on outside matters of important. Take time to study new interests seriously and get excellent results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use diplomacy with an associate and avoid serious misunderstanding. Evening is best time to be congenial.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Take care you don't invest more heavily today than you can afford. Cut down on unnecessary expenses wherever you can.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Consult a financial expert for advice you need. Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Avoid a troublemaker.

GRAFFITI

...HALLO!
IS THIS 6771-2-3-4?
I'D LIKE TO RESERVE
A SPACE FOR AN AD IN
THE JORDAN TIMES...

**NEED
A QUICK
PICK-UP?
PASS A
STATE
TROOPER**

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

GERMANY
Facke

"I'm afraid it's not only the seat belt you've undone."

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes

"If you're seeking something to improve your appearance, you might try one with a veil."

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

KOJAK: A SUMMER MADNESS
A mentally disturbed woman tries to kill one of Kojak's associates, Bradock, whom she thinks is responsible for the death of her son and dog.

DOC ELLIOT: NO PLACE TO GO
Doc Elliot is forced at gun point to drive a young man to Mexico.

BIG VALLEY: BOUNTY ON A BERKELEY
Nick falls in love with a married woman and accepts her choice between the two men in her life.

GEORGE AND MILDRED: MY HUSBAND NEXT DOOR
As a result of a misunderstanding, George changes the wallpaper of his neighbour instead of his own.

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OUT AND ABOUT

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Firas Wings Hotel, Jibal Al Luweibdeh. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and 3 la carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

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First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jibal Amman, near the Ahilyah School or CMS. Tel. 38863. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service - order by phone.

QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jibal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21083. Jibal Al Luweibdeh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646. Jibal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbid.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jibal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

PEANUTS

GOOD GRIEF, DON'T GO OUT OF BOUNDS!

HIT A TREE! HIT A BUILDING!

HIT A HOUSEWIFE!

THE FLINTSTONES

JUST RELAX, MR. ROCKWELL. EVEN THOUGH THINGS LOOK BAD, NOW WE'LL FINISH YOUR JOB ON TIME...

I'M TURNING THE JOB OVER TO FLINTSTONE, MY BEST MAN!

LET'S FACE IT... I'M IN TROUBLE!!

MUTT AND JEFF

HI, BOSS! CAN I SEE YOU A MINUTE?

A-HEM! WHAT IS IT?

IT'S THE BEST HAIR TONIC FOR LOOSE HAIR!

BUT I'M NOT LOSING ANY HAIR!

OH, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT, BOSS, BUT YOUR SECRETARY IS!

STARTING NOW - GIVE JEFF A TEN DOLLAR INCREASE IN SALARY!

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Jumble these four Jumbles, letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

YMUS
[Grid]

VILAF
[Grid]

RILEM
[Grid]

NBATE
[Grid]

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: [Grid]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: **BATON SHEAF JUGGLE CONVOY**
Answer: The son is "reformed" and has high moral principles - "HONEST"

ROSSWORD PUZZLE

ROSS
28. Turnmeric
29. West Point dance
30. Escapment
31. Television horse
32. Aphorism
33. Combining form
34. Enclosure
35. Condemn
36. And, in Latin
37. Away
38. Minow
39. New Zealand
40. Tinted
41. The birds
42. Surgical instruments
43. Subject

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

DOWN
1. Nail treatment
2. Vitalized
3. Defraud
4. —passant
5. Notice
6. Entangle
7. Guido's lowest note
8. Napery
9. Indigo
10. — Little Indians
11. Summer in France
12. Belgian commune
13. Roman coins
14. Launching site
15. Vegetable
16. Excel
17. Conceals
18. Dissertation
19. Apollo's instrument
20. Stovepipe
21. Timothy
22. Marsh
23. Sharpener
24. Dress leather
25. Department store event
26. Foundations
27. Represent
28. Because
29. Chess pieces
30. Kava
31. Sun god
32. Ancient Jewish month

Mystery still shrouds kidnap of Fiat chief executive in Paris

PARIS, April 14 (AFP). — Fears mounted here today for Italian-born Lucchino Revelli-Beaumont, the chief executive of Fiat auto operations in France, kidnapped yesterday.

Police were discounting the theory that the seizure was carried out by a committee for the defence of Italian workers in France, as claimed by an anonymous caller to a French radio station last night.

Mr. Revelli-Beaumont, 58, father of two, was whisked away from outside his ultra-modern flat in the fashionable 16th district of Paris last evening and has not been heard from since.

The anonymous caller to the radio station demanded that

three million francs (\$600,000), plus food and medicine, be made available to unemployed Italians here, but detectives today said the call was a hoax.

They said that further instructions for obtaining the businessman's release had not been forthcoming as promised and that the tone of the telephone message was vague and unconvincing.

Police Inspector Robert Bouit, directing the probe, now appeared to be convinced that a ransom demand was the motive of the kidnapping, the second to hit a senior executive of the Italian motor giant posted abroad.

The other, Mr. Oberdan Sallustro, director of the firm's Argentinian subsidiary, was ki-

lled in 1972 as police attempted to obtain his release.

Mr. Revelli-Beaumont, Director General of Fiat-France since 1974, also took over responsibility for operations in Brazil at the beginning of this year.

In Turin, a spokesman for Fiat said it had received no ransom demand.

Asked if the company would be willing to pay one, the spokesman refused to comment, saying: "We are waiting to be sure of the motives."

He said Fiat President Giovanni Agnelli would not make a statement on the matter and had no plans to travel to Paris.

He said the company believed the kidnappers would wait several days before making any move.

Libya demands release of diplomats allegedly arrested by Egyptians

TRIPOLI, April 14 (R). — Libya has demanded the immediate release of two government officials it says were illegally arrested by Egyptian authorities two days ago, the Arab Revolution News Agency of Libya (ARNA) reported today.

ARNA said Libya had protested over the arrest of Counsellor Ahmad Hureisse and Attache Abdul Hamid Al Namri of the Libyan Arab Relations Bureau (consulate) in Alexandria.

It said Egypt's "aggressive action" had no legal justification and contravened international laws.

The Libyan office in Alexandria was set on fire by Egyptian demonstrators last Sunday. The attack came only hours after the Egyptian government office in Benghazi was stormed and seized by Libyan workers and students.

Egyptian Interior Ministry sources have denied an allegation by the Libyan press attache in Cairo that 12 officials of the Alexandria bureau were arrested by police.

Owen expresses hope for Rhodesian constitutional conference shortly

GABORONE, April 14 (R). — British Foreign Secretary David Owen said here today that he is hoping for a formal constitutional conference on Rhodesia within three months.

Dr. Owen, who yesterday had talks with Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith and South African Prime Minister John Vorster, flew to Botswana today for discussions with President Sir Seretse Khama on the Rhodesian issue.

At a brief airport news conference, Dr. Owen said: "The sort of timetable I am looking towards is starting formal meetings as part of the conference process perhaps mid-June or early July."

He said he hoped this con-

ference, to be convened by Britain and the United States, would then produce proposals in legislative form which could be presented to the British parliament in the session starting in November.

"I think we should take as our objective majority rule for an independent Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) in 1978. I think this can be achieved," Dr. Owen said.

He said that he had been encouraged by his talks with Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Samora Machel of Mozambique and Mr. Spith and Mr. Vorster.

Asked if he was now more optimistic about a peaceful so-

lution than at the beginning of his trip, he replied: "Yes, moderately more optimistic. But I have never been greatly optimistic about the 'four'."

He said his hopes for a conference within three months were a "tentative timescale."

"Much will depend on the transitional steps," he said. "If the constitutional conference came about and legislation emerged, Dr. Owen said he envisaged several steps being taken, such as allowing black nationalist leaders back into Rhodesia and a general election-taking place to bring about majority rule."

U.K.'s Rhodesia initiative slammed

LONDON, April 14 (AFP). — "Moderate" Rhodesian nationalist leader Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole today described the latest British initiative to find a Rhodesian settlement a "waste of time" and "doomed to fail."

Rev. Sithole, who arrived here today, is the disputed leader of the Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) African National Union (ZANU). Rival nationalist Robert Mugabe now claims to head ZANU.

Rev. Sithole told a press conference at London's Heathrow Airport that "all the constitutional efforts taken towards majority rule -- and there are many -- have been rendered useless due to the likes and

dislikes of (Rhodesian Premier) Ian Smith."

He said the "new English-American venture will probably crash on the rocks."

He said all Rhodesian nationalist leaders were agreed on one fundamental point -- the need for free constitutional elections. He agreed there are divergencies on the "non-fundamental issues," adding "there are always arguments in ex British colonies."

Rev. Sithole is scheduled to stay in London until April 2 and plans to meet British Foreign Secretary David Owen when he returns from his current Southern African shuttle and Prime Minister James Callaghan.

Ex-commander of U.S. navy enlightens Israelis on war

TEL AVIV, April 14 (R). — A former commander of the United States navy told senior Israeli officers and officials yesterday they should not rely on guarantees from outside as a substitute for Israel's own strength.

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, former U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, who is on a brief visit to Israel, addressed senior officials of the defence establishment on the balance of forces between the major powers and its effect on Israel.

Admiral Zumwalt said Israel should act in the light of the world's shifting military balance, the advice any American president was likely to get in a confrontation with the Soviet Union and the complacency of American public opinion.

He said that during the 1973 Middle East war, when Israeli forces surrounded the Egyptian Third Army, the Soviets had sent an ultimatum to Washington threatening to go in and relieve the Egyptians themselves unless the U.S. ordered Israel to release the army.

He said the U.S. had no viable alternative than to go on a strategic alert but inform Moscow simultaneously that it had carried out the ultimatum.

Readiness of the Israeli forces was critical to the maintenance of deterrence in the Middle East, he added.

The American public, unlike the Israeli public, was much more complacent because it did not face the immediacy of any threat.

Survivors mark 65th anniversary of the Titanic disaster today

GREENWICH, Connecticut, April 14 (AFP). — Several survivors of the Titanic disaster are expected to attend a Titanic Historical Society meeting here this weekend to commemorate the disaster of the British luxury liner which sank in the North Atlantic 65 years ago tomorrow.

A religious ceremony and an exhibition will also be held during the commemorations of the great sea disaster of April 15, 1912 which caused the loss of 1,513 lives.

There were 711 survivors, some 200 of whom are reportedly still alive, most of them well into their 80s. Thirty of them are members of the Titanic society, which has approximately 1,500 members from several nations.

Society President Edward Kamudo said recently that his group would like to help recover the wreck from its mid-Atlantic seabed graveyard. Financial and technical problems stood, however, in the way. The Titanic lies 2.5 miles deep and it would cost at least \$1 million to refloat her, he said.

The society, whose aim is to perpetuate historical interest in the disaster, is planning to build a Titanic museum and is currently supervising the reprint of books and publications on the great Cunard transatlantic liner.

Called "Unsinkable" by its owners, the Titanic went down on its maiden voyage after it hit an iceberg in the middle of the night.

The collision occurred almost

mid-way between Southampton, from where the Titanic had sailed a few days previously, and New York.

Its hull ripped open under water by the iceberg, the liner sank within a few hours while the ship's orchestra played "Nearer my God to Thee" as victims of its own publicity, the ship did not carry enough lifeboats and two-thirds of its passengers and crew disappeared with her.

Most of the survivors were picked up by the liner Aphrodite. The Titanic Historical Society's interest extends beyond the liner. Mr. Kamudo said it has contacted French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau with a view to recovering the British liner, torpedoed in the Aegean Sea in 1916.

Morocco's aid to Zaire is a defence of Islam, liberty, legitimacy, says paper

RABAT, April 14 (R). — Morocco's mission in sending troops to Zaire is to defend Islam, liberty and legitimacy, the pro-government daily Maroc Soir said in an editorial today.

The editorial, signed by former Information Minister Ahmad Alaoui, was the first Moroccan press comment on the role of the contingent of 1,500 troops King Hassan II has sent to assist Zaire combat insurgents in Shaba Province.

The editorial said that Morocco had given military assistance to defend Islamic causes in the past and had gone to the assistance of Kinshasa in 1960 under U.N. auspices.

It had been the first to give concrete aid to African nationalists like those in Angola

and Guinea-Bissau, and had sent expeditionary forces to Syria and Egypt in 1973 to assist the Arabs against Israel, M. Alaoui wrote.

King Hassan had answered Zaire's appeal by sending troops to "help it repulse the invasion of mercenaries enjoying the overt assistance of foreign mercenaries," he added.

Morocco was also a founding member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) after the Casablanca conference of 1961 which "speeded up the decolonisation of the continent" and through it had helped Algerian nationalists to gain freedom from France, the editorial said.

Finally, in cooperation with Mauritania, Morocco had settled the problem of the

Western Sahara occupied by Spain by persuading Madrid to hand it over to them "so that their cause triumphed without having recourse to foreign forces" and thus "settling their problems in a specifically African framework," according to M. Alaoui.

"This intervention comes within the framework of a policy which is interested and not opportunistic... each time an African country called for aid it always found Morocco at its side, whether Algeria or Angola and, as became evident later, without being paid in return," the editorial added.

The writer said Algeria had shown the blackest ingratitude towards Morocco by refusing to honour pre-independence promises to redefine their common frontier, while Angola which had enjoyed the

aid of the whole of Africa had called in foreign forces "to establish a regime which is far from representing national unanimity."

In Angola "it is not a question for these people to impose their ideology in the country but especially a question of making it a base for subversion and aggression, to undermine African unity, and make Zaire its first victim."

"Local to its mission, its vocation and its convictions by attachment to sacred values, legitimacy and legality, it has always been for 13 centuries, Morocco answered without hesitation the appeal of legitimate government. Zaire launched to all African countries, with the same class, it showed in answering 'pre-sent' to the U.N. appeal in 1960," the writer said.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Carter may increase tax on gasoline

NEW YORK, April 14 (Agency). — President Carter plans a gradual tax on gasoline and it could attain 50 cents a gallon, the New York Times reported today.

It based its report on a document dated April 9 summing up the president's ideas on the subject.

Mr. Carter, it said, favoured the end of gasoline price controls from next autumn onwards.

He also wanted to encourage energy saving by means of certain tax provisions to do with home insulation.

Householders and companies prepared to fit solar heat equip-

ment would also be financially helped.

Mr. Carter sought to end price controls on oil produced in the United States at costs as high as those of the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), according to the New York Times.

Federal Budget Director Bert Lance said today he was recommending that President Carter withdraw his \$50 per person tax rebate plan.

In an interview broadcast in Washington this morning, Mr. Lance said he would make the proposal to Mr. Carter based on signs that economic recov-

ery is progressing well enough that the rebate might spark another round of inflation.

Administration sources expect Mr. Carter will go along with Mr. Lance's recommendation since the rebate proposal is having trouble finding support in the Senate, which is scheduled to vote on the measure, already approved in the House of Representatives, when Congress returns from recess later this week.

Also, the Los Angeles Times reported to day that President Carter looks like virtually can-

celling the recovery programme announced some weeks ago.

The programme could be cut from \$15,000 million to a mere \$2,000 million, it said.

Owing to the current vigour in the U.S. upturn, Mr. Carter was about to announce that the \$50 tax cut for most taxpayers will be cancelled.

He would also give up plans for a \$2,000 million tax credit designed to encourage industrial investment, the paper said.

These decisions may be confirmed officially today, it added.

Italy announces new austerity measures

ROME, April 14 (R). — The Italian government will raise electricity and transportation prices as further economic austerity measures aimed at producing a \$530 million loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it was announced today.

In a letter of intent the government underlined the need for modifications in Italy's system of wage indexation -- by which wages rise every three months in line with increases in the cost-of-living index.

The Communist-dominated trade unions have rejected any drastic change in the index which they defend as a major achievement for the Italian working class.

But the government's letter said the wage indexation was boosting inflation and reducing company profits which, it said, threatened employment by reducing industrial potential for new investment.

The government said it expected the electricity and transportation increases to raise 500 billion lire (about \$330 million) in the next 12 months to help offset Italy's huge public sector deficit.

It also pledged to refrain from new exchange controls, or from tightening existing exchange controls, for the duration of the requested IMF loan.

The IMF board is meeting in Washington on April 25 and is expected to give the final go-ahead then.

£ holders offered U.K. Treasury bonds

LONDON, April 14 (AFP). — The Bank of England today closed the bond subscriptions for consolidating the sterling balances, and official sources said the conversion had gone well.

The score of countries holding the £2,200 million of sterling balances were offered medium-term Treasury bonds in dollars, marks, Swiss francs and Yen. The bonds are for periods of between five and 10 years.

Most of the balances were held by seven countries, the majority Middle East oil-producing countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi.

Results of the operation, which began 10 days ago, were

generally expected to be made known tomorrow, but already official sources indicated that the issue has proved satisfactory.

The interest rates carried by the bonds are relatively attractive at the moment. Subscribers have already made gains through the rise in the yen, mark and Swiss franc.

Even so, it is expected that some three-quarters of the converted sum will be in dollars. Rationing of bonds in the other three currencies will probably be necessary.

The consolidation of the sterling balances will not be 100 per cent, as most holders will keep some sterling.

Saccharine might not be banned in U.S. after all

WASHINGTON, April 14 (AFP). — Saccharine will not be banned in the United States after all, reliable sources said here yesterday.

They said that the artificial sweetener would be sold freely as an ordinary medicine without prescription.

This means that the Food and Drug Administration FDA, which controls food products and medicine, may have second thoughts about its decision to ban saccharine from July. The organisation has been inundated with protests.

Secretary of Health Joseph Califano has received about 800 letters a day asking him to

keep the market for saccharine open since the announcement on March 9 that laboratory tests had shown the substance caused cancer in animals, with the result that it had to be banned.

Under the compromise said to have been adopted by the FDA, manufacturers would be forbidden to sweeten food products or drinks with saccharine. But its sale would be authorised in chemists' shops and drugstores, perhaps with such a warning as "this substance may cause cancer."

An FDA spokesman said that details concerning the problem may be announced soon.

WALL STREET REPORT

Trading was brisk on the New York stock exchange Thursday, where the industrial average jumped a surprising eight points.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 947.00, a gain of 8.82 points: Transp at 234.17, a gain of 3.31; utilities at 108.93, a gain of 0.74. A total of 30,490,000 shares changed hands.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market Thursday closed quietly mixed and at 15:00 the F.T. index was up one point at 418.8.

The miners' intention to reject further wage curbs caused equities to come off the top but government bonds were largely unaffected by this or the money supply figures, dealers said.

Government bonds were mixed with falls of 3/8 among longer maturities while short dates firmed up to 1/2. Gold shares ended little changed in small turnover. Dollar stocks and Canadians were mixed.

The oil sector was fairly active with B.P. closing 14p up on speculation that the U.S. government will allow Alaskan oil sales at market prices.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$151.5/oz.

APOLOGY -- Wednesday's gold price should have read \$152.25/oz., and not \$125.25/oz., as stated.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* GENEVA, April 14 (R). — Eastern Europe's debts to the West -- which have caused some concern among bankers -- could have climbed to about \$35 billion at the end of last year, a United Nations report said today. Several estimates made in Europe in the past few months have put the figure as high as \$40 billion. A report on Eastern Europe, part of an economic survey by the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), estimated today that \$35 billion was the accumulated net debt of the Soviet Union and its allies.

* TEHRAN, April 14 (R). — Iran's oil production during March averaged 6,275,105 barrels a day, or 227,706 barrels more than in February, according to figures released by the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company. March output was 1,216,599 barrels higher than in January, when production slumped because of a 10 per cent price increase.

* MOSCOW, April 14 (R). — Afghanistan and the Soviet Union today signed an economic cooperation agreement which apparently provides for continued Soviet aid to Kabul. Tass news agency, reporting on the ceremony, gave no details of the agreement but said that Kremlin economic aid expert Semyon Skachkov and Afghanistan's Planning Minister Ali Ahmed Khurram had signed the document. Afghan President Sardar Mohammad Daoud yesterday completed two days of talks with Soviet leaders, which clearly centred on ways of expanding aid from Moscow to Kabul.

* AMMAN, April 14 (R). — Saudi Arabia has agreed to the employment of Indonesians on development and construction projects in the Kingdom, according to an Indonesian minister quoted by Riyadh Radio today. Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Jusuf, Minister of Industry, also told the radio his talks in the Saudi capital had covered the possibility of joint industrial projects between the two countries. Saudi Arabia, which has complained about the high prices charged by Western concerns, is turning to Asian countries, especially South Korea, Pakistan, India and Taiwan for development projects.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* ABU DHABI, April 14 (R). — Moslem religious courts, which can impose such Quranic punishments as mutilation and stoning, to death, have been given powers here to try foreigners, including non-Moslems. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, has ordered the Justice Ministry to send all cases of murder, rape and theft to the Sharia (Moslem religious) courts instead of to civil courts. The change was reported by local newspapers and confirmed today by Sheikh Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Mubarak, head of the religious courts, who said the law would not differentiate between Moslems and non-moslems.

* NEW DELHI, April 14 (R). — Former Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh will take over today as interim president of the Congress Party, which is now holding an inquiry into its shattering defeat in last month's general election. A party spokesman said Mr. Singh will preside over party affairs until a new president is elected by the All India Congress Committee, which will probably meet in mid-May. Outgoing party President Dev Kant Barooah said yesterday he was quitting because he felt responsible for the election defeat, the first suffered by the party since Indian independence 30 years ago.

* GENEVA, April 14 (AFP). — Representatives of more than 100 governments convened here today to amend international law concerning war. They will attempt in particular to draft regulations protecting civilians and prisoners of war. The conference will last until June 10. Previous sessions of the conference have already adopted various regulations in the last three years. Problems remaining to be settled include the treatment of captured mercenaries and civilian resistance fighters, whether to forbid certain weapons such as "napalm" (jellied gasoline) and procedures for setting up international commissions to investigate war crimes. Deep differences of opinion exist between Western, Communist and developing countries. The conflict in Zaire appears to be modifying the positions of some governments.

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